

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims ~~1-30~~ without prejudice. Please add new claims 31-60 as follows.

31. (New) A method for validating a data stream comprising:

AI  
generating a validation key associated with the data stream, said validation key to map the data stream with a source;

generating the data stream;

storing the validation key;

embedding the validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded data stream; and

sending the validation key embedded data stream to a destination.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the source is any one of a source of audio information, a source of video information, a source of audio-video information and a uniform resource locator (URL).

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein generating the validation key associated with the data stream comprises generating the validation key in response to a request for data to be retrieved from the uniform resource locator (URL).

34. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein generating the validation key associated with the data stream, said validation key to map the data stream with a source comprises generating the validation key and sending the validation key to the destination.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the data stream comprises any one of encoded video information, encoded audio information, encoded audio-video information, and encoded information from the URL.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

receiving the validation key at the destination;

sampling the validation key embedded data stream at the destination to detect the validation key; and

validating the validation key embedded data stream in response to detecting the validation key in the validation key embedded data stream.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein receiving the validation key at the destination comprises receiving the validation key with the URL.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising requesting data to be retrieved from the URL.

39. (New) A method for validating a data stream comprising:

receiving a validation key associated with the data stream, said validation key to map the data stream with a source;

storing the validation key;

receiving the data stream;

sampling the data stream to detect the validation key embedded in the data stream; and

validating the data stream in response to detecting the validation key embedded in the data stream.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the source is any one of a source of audio information, a source of video information, a source of audio-video information and a uniform resource locator (URL).

41. (New) The method of claim 40, comprising requesting data to be retrieved from the uniform resource locator (URL).

42. (New) The method of claim 39, comprising generating an error if the validation key is not detected in the data stream.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising creating a log file and writing the error to the log file.

44. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled with the bus;

a memory coupled with the bus, said memory having stored therein a set of instructions, which when executed by the processor cause the processor to generate a validation key associated with a data stream, said validation key to map the data stream with a source, to generate the data stream, to store the validation key, to embed the validation key in the data stream to form a

validation key embedded data stream, and to send the validation key embedded data stream to a destination.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the source is any one of a source of audio information, a source of video information, a source of audio-video information, and a uniform resource locator (URL).

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the instructions to generate the data stream comprise instructions to encode any one of audio information, video information, audio-video information, and information from the uniform resource locator (URL).

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the instructions to generate the validation key associated with the data stream further comprise instructions to send the validation key to the destination.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the set of instructions comprises further instructions to send the validation key to the destination in response to receiving a request for data to be retrieved from the URL.

49. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled with the bus;

a memory coupled with the bus, said memory having stored therein a set of instructions,

which when executed by the processor cause the processor to receive a validation key associated

with a data stream, said validation key to map the data stream with a source, to store the validation key, to receive the data stream, to sample the data stream to detect the validation key embedded in the data stream, and to validate the data stream in response to detecting the validation key embedded in the data stream.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the source is any one of a source of audio information, a source of video information, a source of audio-video information and a uniform resource locator (URL).

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the set of instructions comprises further instructions to request data to be retrieved from the uniform resource locator (URL).

52. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the set of instructions comprises further instructions to generate an error if the validation key is not detected in the data stream.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the set of instructions comprises further instructions to create a log file and write the error to the log file.

54. (New) A server-client system for validating delivery of a data stream comprising:

a server comprising a first bus, a first processor coupled with the first bus, and a first memory coupled with the first bus, said first memory having stored therein a first set of instructions, which when executed by the first processor cause the first processor to generate a validation key associated with the data stream, said validation key to map the data stream with a source, to generate the data stream, to store the validation key, to embed the validation key in the data stream

to form a validation key embedded data stream, and to send the validation key embedded data stream to a client; and

a client comprising a second bus, a second processor coupled with the second bus, and a second memory coupled with the second bus, said second memory having stored therein a second set of instructions, which when executed by the second processor cause the second processor to receive the validation key generated by the server, to store the validation key, to receive the validation key embedded data stream, to sample the validation key embedded data stream to detect the validation key embedded in the validation key embedded data stream, and to validate the validation key embedded data stream in response to detecting the validation key embedded in the validation key embedded data stream.

55. (New) The server-client system of claim 54, wherein the second set of instructions comprises further instructions to generate an error in response to not detecting the validation key embedded in the validation key embedded data stream.

56. (New) The server-client system of claim 55, wherein the second set of instructions comprises further instructions to communicate the error to the server.

57. (New) The server-client system of claim 55, wherein the second set of instructions comprises further instructions to create a log file, to write the error to the log file and to send the log file to the server.

58. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable medium that provides instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

generating a validation key associated with a data stream, said validation key to map the data stream with a source;

generating the data stream;

storing the validation key;

embedding the validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded data stream; and

sending the validation key embedded data stream to a destination.

59. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 58, wherein said instructions for generating a validation key associated with the data stream, said validation key to map the data stream with a source, comprise further instructions to direct said machine to perform operations comprising sending the validation key to the destination.


60. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 58, wherein said instructions for generating the data stream comprise further instructions to direct said machine to perform operations comprising encoding media information to generate the data stream, wherein the media information is any of audio information, video information, or an audio-video information.

Please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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